

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-6. (Canceled).

7. (Currently Amended) A method for operating a vehicle navigation system by enabling useful data including navigation data which is one of (a) stored on a data carrier and (b) transmitted into a data processing system associated with the vehicle navigation system, the method comprising:

enabling the useful data for an area which is definable by a user of the useful data, wherein the useful data are enabled for an area defined by the user by ~~one of (a) defining a center point and a radius of a circular region, or (b) specifying corners of the area.~~

8. (Canceled).

9. (Canceled).

10. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the enabling of the useful data includes granting of a use authorization, wherein the use authorization is one of (a) transmitted via a radio signal and (b) present on the data carrier.

11. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 7, further comprising:

generating an error message and terminating a transmission of the useful data if navigation involves areas outside the user-defined area;

wherein GPS data or radio location data are used to determine whether the user is located within the user-defined area for which a use authorization has been granted.

12. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein enabling takes place in a time-limited manner.

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13. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 7, wherein the area defined by the user is not limited to any political boundary.